

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A continuous on-line total carbon analyzer for water applications, the analyzer comprising:

a sample inlet to receive a continuous stream of sample specimen;

a gas inlet to receive a continuous stream of gas that is substantially free of carbon dioxide;

a sample stream flow controller including a metering pump coupled to the sample stream and adapted to control sample flow therethrough;

a gas flow controller coupled to the gas stream and adapted to control gas flow therethrough;

a combustion furnace coupled to the sample stream flow controller and the gas flow controller to receive continuous flow of sample stream and gas, the combustion furnace being maintained at a temperature in excess of approximately 680°C;

a chiller coupled to the combustion furnace to receive the oxidized material and condense water and particulate matter from the heated materials;

a detector coupled to the chiller to receive a continuous flow of carbon dioxide and provide an output indicative of a relative amount of carbon dioxide flowing therethrough the output being indicative of total carbon in the specimen stream.

2. (Previously Amended) The analyzer of claim 1 and further comprising a catalyst disposed in the combustion furnace.

3. (Original) The analyzer of claim 2 wherein the catalyst is a platinum-based catalyst.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Amended) The analyzer of claim 1 wherein the metering pump provides a sample flow in the range of approximately 0.5 cc per minute to approximately 2.0 cc per minute.

6. (Original) The analyzer of claim 5 wherein the sample flow is approximately 0.5 cc per minute.

7. (Original) The analyzer of claim 1 wherein the chiller is a thermoelectric chiller.

8. (Original) The analyzer of claim 1 wherein the detector is a non-dispersive infrared detector.

9. (Original) The analyzer of claim 8 wherein the non-dispersive infrared detector provides an output corresponding to carbon dioxide quantity in the zero to 100 parts per million range.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Amended) A method of continuously analyzing total carbon content in water, the method comprising:

continuously receiving a sample specimen and providing the sample specimen at a pre-selected flow rate;
receiving carbon dioxide-free gas at a pre-selected flow rate;
conveying the sample stream and gas through a combustion furnace to oxidize the sample stream;
and

measuring a quantity of carbon dioxide generated by the combustion furnace which quantity is indicative of the total carbon of the water.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 and further comprising cooling the oxidized sample stream prior to the step of measuring carbon dioxide quantity.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)